Statement

(i) To examine and define, in the National context, the ecological role of forests and the manner in which this should be achieved;

(ii) To formulate a conceptual frame-work for forest protection and conservation in the counry;

(iii) To examine the implementation aspects of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the National Forest Policy, 1988 with a view to fulfilling the need for conservation as well as the developmental aspiration of the people especially those living in and around forest areas;

(iv) To propose an implementation strategy and the institutional arrangements including public support systems required for this purpose.

Reorganisation of large States

*146. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have in the recent past, considered the question of reorganising the large States in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up any commission for the reorganisation of the States in the country; and

(c) if so, what is the decision, if any; taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) ond (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Payment of outstanding dues by Iraq

*147. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has to pay a large amount of money to the Indian public and private sector companies; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure immediate payments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since 1983, Deferred Payment Agreements have been entered into between the Governments of India and Iraq for realisation of dues of the Indian companies in respect of projects covered by the Agreements. Negotiations for Deferred Payment Agreement, 1989 are yet to be held and Iraqi authorities have been requested for dates for holding the negotiations.

Hardships being faced by Indian citizens wishing to go aborad

*148. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian citizens wishing to go abroad have to undergo various hardships by going through various offices, viz. Passport; Protectorate of Immigration, income tax and travel agencies which exploit them in one way or the other; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to simplify the procedure to mitigate the hardships of persons wishing to go abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) There are procedural requirements which are intended to serve specific purposes. Evey effort is made to mitigate the hardship, if any, faced by persons going abroad.